

ABSTRACT

Background and objectives:

Malnutrition is common problem seen associated with HIV infection. We conducted a study to assess the nutritional status of HIV infected children and various modifiable factors that contributes to the malnutrition

Methods :

55 children less than 5 years who are HIV infected and are attending Salem ART centre were included in the study. A questionnaire was distributed among the caretakers of all these candidates to assess their social status and also their nutritional knowledge and nutritional intake of the children . Anthropometric assessment of nutritional status and laboratory evaluation of micronutrient deficiencies were done.

Results:

Prevalence of $wt/age < 2SD$ was $> 50\%$, stunting and wasting was seen in almost 38% . it was found that nutritional knowledge is significantly associated with nutritional status. Poor nutritional knowledge was seen among the caretakers of more than half of the cases. Majority of the children of these caretakers had poor nutritional status.

Interpretation and conclusion:

HIV is seen significantly associated with malnutrition . modifiable factors that contribute to the poor nutritional status are poor nutritional knowledge of caretakers and poor social background . nutritional status and morbidities were found less among the children of caretakers with good nutritional knowledge and children who take good diet . hence every attempts should be made by health care workers and social workers to ensure that the children take ART medication regularly and take balanced diet.